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XU Club Football Scores 2024 Rebirth

Students anticipate football's return to campus after the club team was cut in 2013

BY BEN DICKISON
Sports Editor

Fifty years ago on Nov. 24, 1973, Xavier University's football program triumphed over Toledo 35-31 in its last-ever contest. Less than a month after Xavier football snapped its four-year streak of losing seasons, Xavier's Board of Trustees voted nearly unanimously to dissolve the football program due to its consistency in producing debt for the institution.

Now, in 2023, a new faction of Musketeers will seek to strap on their helmets and compete as part of the Xavier Football Club (XUFCB).

This club team is a separate venture from the previously proposed NCAA Division I non-scholarship football program. While the addition of such a program administered by the Athletic Department remains "a definite maybe," according to Xavier Athletic Director and Vice President for Institutional Strategy Greg Christopher, the "reality is the College of Medicine is the higher priority for the university right now."

XUFCB is not governed by the NCAA but instead the National Club Football Association (NCFA). Instead of being facilitated through the Athletics Office, XUFCB will be operated by the University's Club Sports Office, and Assistant Director of Club Sports Travis Rawe will oversee administrative procedures along with XUFCB President Christian Barbour, Vice President Jeff Atwood and Treasurer Eddie Murray, all members of the Class of 2027. In addition, junior Michele McNulty will serve as

Events Manager when the team begins competing in fall of 2024.

Barbour played quarterback at perennial football powerhouse Trinity High School in Louisville prior to partially tearing his hip flexor while training for a promising junior season. His plans to found a football club at Xavier were ignited during his college admissions process.

"When I was applying to colleges, I knew wherever I went would have to have some type of football. It's just been that important in my life," Barbour said.

After starting regular practices in the upcoming spring semester, XUFCB will begin competing as a member of the Great Lakes Conference in Fall 2024. The Great Lakes Conference is the larg-

est collegiate club football conference in the nation, featuring opponents from institutions such as Ohio State, Wright State, Toledo, Michigan State and Pittsburgh.

Barbour believes that the Ohio State team represents the gold standard of club football and are favorites to earn a bid in this year's national championship contest, which will be held at Chatham University in Pittsburgh this postseason.

Home games for the Musketeers will be played just minutes away at Marx Stadium on the campus of Walnut Hills High School (WHHS), which holds a capacity of 2300 WHHS faithful on Friday nights in fall. Because of a policy by the City of Cincinnati that allows local higher education institutions to rent venues for the same price

as Cincinnati Public Schools.

Barbour hopes to generate buzz for the return of football to campus through an exciting play style and partnerships with local businesses.

"We have a deal with Krispy Kreme to get a percentage of earnings off sales of dozens of donuts and deals with various social media platforms such as Fizz," said Barbour.

NCFA regulations establish a cap for roster spots at 50. According to Barbour, XUFCB has already filled 45 of those spots.

"Surprisingly, kicker was the easiest position for us to fill," Barbour remarked. "We definitely could use the help of a few more linemen and linebackers, though."

For those interested in trying their hand at club football, XUFCB plans to hold open tryouts the week before

Spring Break in order to budget time to build a quality coaching staff before spring practice. There are no requirements as far as weight or stature of players, and experience ranges from high school stars to "guys who have never touched a football before," according to Barbour.

Xavier's Club Sports office last sponsored football in 2013, after which the program was cut for budgeting issues. Since then, Xavier has offered intramural flag football as the only football opportunity for students on campus.

"Only having flag football is like placing basketball hoops without backboards all around campus," said Barbour. "11 vs 11 full contact football is expensive, but we as an institution need to have it," he emphasized.



Photo courtesy of Xavier Football Club

Xavier Football Club (pictured above in a 2006 game) is being rebooted after the team was scrapped due to budget cuts after the 2013 season. A group of students enthusiastic about football will hold tryouts for the team in the upcoming spring semester.

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Xavier Theatre performs Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* to acclaim from one reviewer.



Buenger Hall Faces Staff Turnover

Three of the seven resident assistants hired at the start of the year have quit

BY JOSEPH NICHOLS
Staff Writer

This semester, three of the original seven Resident Assistants (RA) stationed in Buenger Hall, including the Senior Resident Assistant, have decided to resign before winter break and opted to find separate housing elsewhere. All three of the former RAs declined to comment at this time.

“Given that numerous RAs have stepped down, it is clear something needs to change in Buenger and the management needs to be looked into,” stated sophomore biomedical sciences and Spanish double major Rocco Giegerich, a resident of an RA who resigned.

Of the RAs contacted to comment on the situation regarding RAs leaving Buenger Hall, many declined to comment, worrying they would face repercussions or jeopardize their position as an RA.

“I heard from multiple RAs that the management in Buenger Hall specifically was a mess this year for various reasons, and that it made the RA position not enjoyable,” Geigerich said.

An RA at another residence hall, who asked to remain anonymous, shared their own



Newsire photo courtesy of Joseph Nichols

insight into the situation.

“The Buenger Hall director is acting like a bully to the RAs she doesn’t like and created a really awful work environment for the whole staff. Many of them felt uncomfortable in the building,”

they said.

Buenger Hall director Mykaela Freeman has not responded to a request for comments.

The office of Residence Life has seen turnover in the past two years as various in-

Additionally, last year’s Kuhlman Hall Director Amy Brown left Xavier this summer to be an Area Coordinator at the University of Cincinnati.

The RA described that the turnover may be related to a lack of opportunity for advancement.

“As far as the Res Life turnover, it is extremely stagnant because the director of Res Life has been there forever and will probably not leave anytime soon. So the (Associate Directors) left because they couldn’t advance at all, and they would’ve been stuck in the same position for years,” they said.

“(The Hall Directors) also don’t have room to advance in Res Life and their pay is atrocious. So, they leave because they have no room to advance, and they can get better pay from other universities.”

“All vacated RA positions have been filled with a minimum of disruption to residents and other staff members. The vacant positions were filled by hiring students who were selected as alternates during last year’s hiring process for RAs,” Senior Director for Student Affairs Lori Lambert said when asked about the situation.

XU Students Channel Creative Side at XAS Art Fair

BY HANNAH KREMER
Staff Writer

Last Friday, the Xavier Art Society (XAS) hosted the Art and Creativity Fair, where clubs set up shop around the Gallagher Student Center with crafts, activities and giveaways for attendees.

XAS’s goal was for the event to help students relax before finals, engage with their creative side and make art through a variety of different modes.

The president of the club,

sophomore Ian McIlvain, was inspired to put the event together to show Xavier students how art has a presence in all aspects of society and is applicable to all fields of interest.

“The idea was that in a fair setting, we could bring together different groups on campus and show how each of them utilize art and creativity to further their mission,” he said.

as the LGBTQ+ Alliance, Xavier Live, Makerspace, In the Loop, Outdoor Club, the Dorothy Day Center for Faith and Justice, Xavier Student Sustainability, the Muslim Student Association, the Career Development Office, Book Club and A Xavier Christmas.

This was a unique opportunity for them to gather and celebrate the arts in a way that was fitting with their clubs, while also encouraging new audiences to engage with their groups.

There were many craft options for students to choose from. Some made hand turkeys for their mothers while others made pins for their backpacks.

The Dorothy Day Center for Faith and Justice appealed to book lovers across campus with their bookmark crafts made of fall foliage.

The most festive Musketters gathered around the table hosted by A Xavier Christmas to decorate wood-



Newsire photo courtesy of Jackson Hare

en ornaments.

For those in a rush, XAS and the Makerspace club gave out friendship bracelets and handknitting kits.

First-year student Ellie McCallister particularly enjoyed the craft provided by the First Year Seminar (FYS) table.

“I really liked making tissue paper flowers at the FYS station,” McCallister said. “Everyone running the tables was so welcoming and kind.”

Upon entry, attendees of the event were offered three raffle tickets for any of the three gift baskets of their choosing.

One was catered to the avid painter, with a sketchbook, brushes and acrylics. Another contained markers, pens, a notebook and other goodies geared towards the doodler.

Finally, there was a Christmas-themed gift basket with a puzzle, a gingerbread house kit and other themed items.

In all, 190 students showed up to the event, which McIlvain believes was the most successful part of the fair.

“Art Society is trying to dispel the idea that people are not creative,” he said. “Anyone can participate in our events and make some art. I think that is evident in the large number of people all participating in the fair.”

XAS is hopeful that the fair will be put on again in the future with the same and additional clubs.

Students can follow Xavier Arts Society’s page on Campus Groups or on Instagram to stay up to date on events.



Newsire photo courtesy of Jackson Hare

Riots Erupt in Dublin After Knife Attack

The violence was allegedly provoked by anti-immigrant groups, leading to the arrest of 34 people

BY JACK PLUTH AND JUSTIN MALONE
Staff Writer and World News Editor

Last Thursday, Dublin was struck with civil unrest in response to a knife attack that injured five people, including three children. Unrest died down in the Irish capital amid heavy police presence after 34 individuals were arrested following a string of riots.

The violence occurred just hours after three children and a school care assistant were stabbed outside of an elementary school in Dublin's Parnell Square. A five-year-old girl remained in critical condition at a local hospital, and the children's care assistant — a

woman in her 30s who police say used her body to protect the children — was treated for serious injuries. The attacker, a man in his 50s, was also treated for critical injuries and taken into custody by police.

Members of the public intervened at an early stage in the knife attack, including Caio Benicio, a 43-year-old Brazilian delivery driver for Deliveroo, who said that he knocked the perpetrator to the ground by striking him with his helmet.

The Garda Síochána, the Irish police force, have not ruled out any motive for the attacks and have not commented on the nationality of the man arrested in connection with the stabbings.

According to research-

ers specializing in extremist movements, unconfirmed reports that he was an Algerian migrant quickly began circulating in anti-immigrant and far-right groups.

Rumors surrounding the man's nationality and his unfounded links to illegal immigration began circulating, causing anti-immigrant groups to call for a demonstration to stand against crime in Dublin. A crowd of protestors who met at the scene of the attack, then began to clash with police who arrived to deter unrest. Some of the rioters carried banners reading "Irish Lives Matter" in crowds that were estimated to be around 200-300 people.

Eleven police cars were damaged or destroyed after allegedly being set ablaze by rioters, along with three buses and a tram.

Fireworks and flares were also allegedly thrown at police, and the windows of several hotels and hostels were smashed. Thirteen shops were also significantly damaged or subject to looting during the violence, especially those that were on the waterfront of the River Liffey. People were urged to stay away from large parts of Dublin due to the unrest, which also temporarily closed public transit throughout the city.

"I think that we've seen an

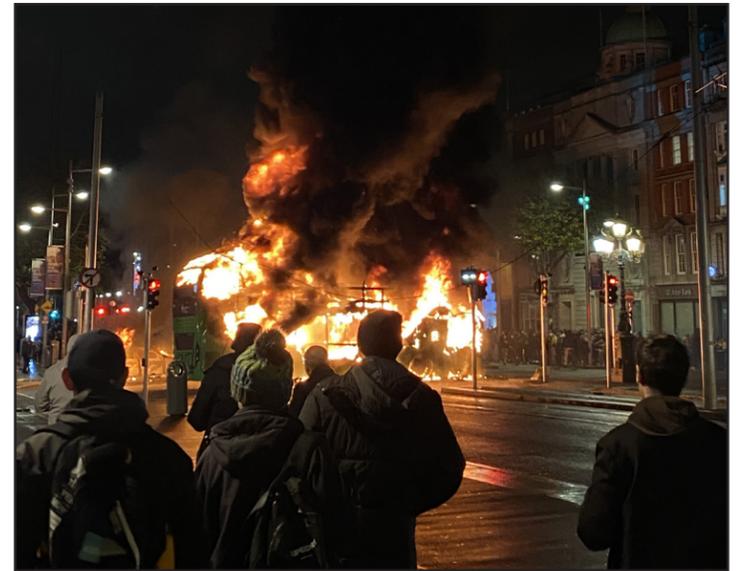


Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

Riots in the city of Dublin damaged property and vehicles throughout the Irish capital, including three public buses.

element of radicalization. We have seen a group of people who take literally a thimble full of facts and make a bathtub of hateful assumptions and then conduct themselves in a way which is riotous and disruptive to our society," Garda Síochána commissioner Drew Harris said.

Irish Justice Minister Helen McEntee remarked that the deployment of riot police in response to the unrest was the largest in the history of the nation. The attacks were also condemned by all political parties in Ireland, including the opposition party Sinn Féin, whose president Mary Lou McDonald said there was

an "unacceptable failure" to keep people safe on the night of the riots.

Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar also condemned the disorder in Dublin.

"Those involved have brought shame on Dublin, brought shame on Ireland and brought shame on their families and themselves. This is not who we are. This is not who we want to be, and this is not who we will ever be," Varadkar said.

He also said that his government would use "full resources of the law" to punish the perpetrators and create stricter anti-hate legislation. Ministers in the Irish parlia-



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

The knife attack, which injured three children, a school care assistant, and a man arrested by police, occurred in Dublin's Parnell Square.

Israel, Hamas Agree to Extend Truce

BY ISAIAH MIESLE
Staff Writer

Israel and Hamas agreed to extend a temporary ceasefire agreement by two days on Monday, prolonging a pause to the conflict that has lasted seven weeks.

The halt in fighting — which began on Friday after negotiations were brokered by Qatar with the help of Egypt and the United States — serves as the longest break since the beginning of the war in October. It is also intended to offer some relief for groups affected by regular Israeli bombardments.

The current conflict between Israel and Hamas was triggered on Oct. 7 after Hamas gunmen and other militant groups launched an attack on southern Israel. Israel responded with air and ground attacks.

Both Israel and Hamas agreed to a ceasefire deal last week, in which about 50 captives would be released in Gaza. Israel is said to have released about 150 Palestinian prisoners. Since the ceasefire, mostly women and minors, who were held without a trial, were released.

Tense negotiations between the groups stalled progress towards creating

permanent agreements until another temporary truce was made.

"An agreement has been reached to extend the humanitarian pause for an additional two days in the Gaza Strip," Majed al-Ansari, a spokesperson for the Qatar Foreign Ministry, said on X. Hamas also said it has agreed to the two-day extension, while Israel said the truce would be extended every day for every 10 additional hostages released.

Each day since the four-day truce began on Friday, Hamas has released some of their hostages, while Israel has freed some of the Palestinians it has held captive.

The Israeli military said that 11 hostages have been released by Hamas. A Qatari spokesperson said that those released were six Argentinians, three French citizens and two Germans. Last Sunday, Hamas released 17 more captives — 14 Israelis and two Thais — which was the highest number released in a day so far.

Last Saturday evening, Hamas released 13 hostages. Thirty-nine Palestinian civilians were released in return. 10 Thai nationals and one Filipino hostage were released by Hamas as well.

The exchange occurred after Hamas accused Israel of several violations of the recent agreement. These allegations included claims that Israel did not release the agreed-upon prisoners and not enough aid was provided in northern Gaza throughout the conflict.

According to the United Nations, the ceasefire enabled Israel and Palestine to get food, water and medicine in large volumes since Oct. 21.

With the short truce that is happening, some relief has been brought to the families of hostages released, with some disappointments surrounding the ongoing conflict.

"There is no real joy, even this little joy we feel as we wait... We are still afraid to feel happy," said Sawsan Bkeer, the mother of a 24-year old Palestinian prisoner.

President Joe Biden noted that, "the chances are real," that the break could lead to a prolonged ceasefire, which he hoped would lead to a more prolonged agreement.

These matters have been further complicated after Hamas accused Israel of a "blatant breach" of their ceasefire agreement in Gaza but claimed they were "still committed to it" yesterday. Meanwhile, an Israeli Defense



BY GAVIN STEELE
Staff Writer

Sky Elements, a company specializing in drone light shows, broke two Guinness World Records at the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions Expo. The show broke the record for largest aerial logo formed by drones and largest aerial image of a flag formed by drones. The show used 1,600 drones, beating the previous record by 100 drones (Nov. 20).

Thousands of blue rubber balls washed up on British beaches from the Hartlepool Power Station. The Tees Valley Wildlife Trust said the balls are used to clean pipes and occasionally spill into the sea due to increased pressure (Nov. 20).

Plumbers celebrated "Brown Friday," or the day after Thanksgiving. For plumbers, it is the busiest day of the year due to increased numbers of house calls regarding clogged drains and broken garbage disposals from people not disposing of Thanksgiving food correctly (Nov. 24).



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

It Should End With *It Ends With Us*

I will admit, when I first read *It Ends With Us* when I was 15, I loved it. I read other Colleen Hoover books and liked those as well. Then, my prefrontal cortex developed more and I realized how problematic her books are and how problematic she is.

It Ends With Us is Hoover's most famous book by far. The story is centered around domestic abuse and the nuances within an abusive relationship. While it is an admirable cause to tell stories of domestic violence, *It Ends With Us* ends up doing the opposite of its intended effect.

The story focuses on the relationship between Ryle and Lily. Ryle is well-accomplished and smart — on paper, he is the perfect “book boyfriend,” but throughout the book, we see his abusive tendencies turn into domestic violence.

The novel leads the reader on; you don't know it's about abuse until it hits you around three-quarter of the way in.

While this is a style of storytelling, it can be hard to discern this, especially considering the ending, which seems to excuse Ryle's abuse.

This is a book about domestic violence, but it is marketed as a romance novel. If you are a highly impressionable 15-year-old, as I was myself, you will believe it is a romance novel. This inherently glorifies and romanticizes domestic violence.

Within the marketing for this book, a series of accompanying merchandise has been released. The most controversial of which is an *It Ends With Us* coloring book. Yes, a book about domestic violence has a coloring book made about it. It is not just the #BookTok community who are posing this as a romance novel, but also the book's author. This eliminates any and all arguments about the nuance of the book, as the author is openly underplaying the message. It is important to note that while Hoover announced the release

of the coloring book, she later canceled it after the amount of backlash she received.

Hoover also made merch, including a \$98 crew neck that says, “Naked truths aren't always pretty,” and a \$45 trucker hat,

along with other items. Other than the merch being very expensive, even for merch standards, there is something deeply troubling about making merch for a book about domestic violence. It's comparable to wearing a shirt based off of *Educated* or *The Color Purple* — it's just weird. Even weirder because the author herself is selling this merch.

The final horror of it all is that the books aren't good. Every Colleen Hoover book I have ever read has a plot of the little scenarios I would make up to fall asleep when I was 12. They all seem to have this “big twist” that is not big

at all. In her novel *Confess*, the ending reveals that when she was sixteen, her boyfriend died in the same hospital that her current boyfriend was in when his mother and sister died. Her first boyfriend's paint supplies were given to her current love interest, and he painted a painting based off of the protagonist and her first boyfriend's love, which is eventually shipped to her as a last declaration of love by her first boyfriend.

If that sounds nonsensical, it's because it is. Everything is just perfectly fit into the plot to make it so everything works out but remains “unpredictable,” making all of the plots boring and stale by default. Also, her writing style can only be described as a middle schooler with millennial cadence, and it is borderline impossible to read with-

out puking in your mouth. Best exemplified by the line in *Ugly Love*, “We both laughed at our son's big balls.”

Skip her books at the airport newsstand — you're better off reading the safety guide on your plane.

While it is an admirable cause to tell stories of domestic violence, *It Ends With Us* ends up doing the opposite of its intended effect.

died. Her first boyfriend's paint



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You Really Want to Cosign a Genocide?

I can feel you forgetting. It's almost amazing what the Internet can do these days. It can battle misinformation and state propaganda. It can bolster efforts for fundraising and humanitarian aid. It can show people how to contact their representatives, what protests are being held near them, any kind of work that could actually accomplish something.

And then it all disappears. That's the curse of virality, right? Your cause blows up on TikTok or whatever, White girls on Instagram make pretty infographics about how many people are being murdered every day, they use a viral sound or filter on TikTok to “spread the word,” they post or repost Instagram stories and like TikToks and retweet. And then the wave passes. The next big thing blows up and it's over, right? We won and the genocide ended because of the power of our thumbs. Wrong.

Palestinians are still being

slaughtered. There are entire generations being erased from the face of the earth and those of us still paying attention are stuck arguing that it's happening. Or that thousands of women, men and children don't deserve to be bombed out of their homes and butchered in the streets — all because they dared to live in a country someone else decided to claim for themselves.

Call it a war against Hamas. Call it an appropriate response to terrorism. You would be lying, because what's really happening is genocide. I can't emphasize enough that we are witnessing an actual, honest-to-god genocide.

And you're forgetting about it.

Actors like Noah Schnapp are parading slogans like “Zionism is sexy.” President Biden won't call for a cease-

fire. The New York Times is still pretending that it's a war against Hamas. Sure, that's the excuse that Israel is using, but can't we call it what it is? Can we please just call it what it is? Slaughter. Ethnic-cleansing. Massacre. Eradication. Genocide.

And we're no longer talking or posting about it like we did at the height of its virality. “Israel-Palestine war: Israeli forces kill Palestinian boy in West Bank raid.” “Three Palestinian students shot and wounded in Vermont, police say.” “Since October 7, Israel has escalated attacks in the West Bank, where Hamas is absent.” These are all headlines from the past week. There has to be a ceasefire. There has to be consequences for this.

And can I add something else? Being against genocide doesn't mean one is antisemit-

ic. There's no need for retaliation against Jewish people as a whole. Violence begets violence and all that.

But we are standing by while children are killed — found in pieces by their parents. Gazan officials report that the death toll is higher than 15,000 people since Oct. 7 — that number includes more than 6,000 children. And the state of Israel says that this is necessary!

Anyone remember the “Emphasis is on damage, not accuracy?” Or that, according to the New York Times, civilian deaths are a “regrettable but unavoidable part of modern conflict?” They have made it very clear that their goal is total annihilation in the name of “defeating terrorism,” or whatever bullsh*t excuse they want to spout.

Israel is okay with slaughtering children. Israel is fine with killing civilians. Israel is okay with leveling Gaza to the point that there is nothing to return to. Israel is okay

with denying humanitarian aid. Israel is okay with killing journalists. Israel is okay with killing its own soldiers and people to prevent hostage-taking — look up the Hannibal Protocol.

Israel is okay with genocide. And if you're silent, you are too.



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Free Up Some Time for *Free Birds*

Imagine a world in which a pair of sentient, radicalized turkeys travel through time to the first Thanksgiving in an attempt to organize an armed revolution against the settlers, getting turkeys off the menu forever. Fortunately, one needn't look further than 2013's *Free Birds* for such a tale of heroic exploits and alternative history.

The movie, which features a stellar quartet of voice actors in Owen Wilson, Amy Poehler, Keith David and Woody Harrelson, genuinely might be one of the strangest movies I have ever seen. However, since Thanksgiving is between Halloween and Christmas (both of which have lengthy lists of movies to watch), there somehow aren't many films to watch for Thanksgiving. While college football dominates with the annual Ohio State-Michigan game (and an insane Iron Bowl, did anyone else watch that?), I don't feel a particular need to watch Akron State duke it out with Delaware

High. *Rudy* and the *Charlie Brown* TV special are classics, but aside from that pair, there's a lack of Thanksgiving movies.

Enter *Free Birds*, a movie described as "the greatest turkey movie of all time" by its promotional material. *Free Birds* is an abnormal film that is a fascinating juxtaposition of pure idiocy and potential brilliance. Judging this movie for what it is — an absurdist comedy aimed to fill the void of Thanksgiving movies — produces something quite undervalued in today's holiday traditions. Like many of you, I watched this movie as a kid when it was initially released but have since almost entirely disregarded it. This past weekend, I stumbled across a DVD of *Free Birds* (lucky me) and decided to give it a watch.

Wow. This is the type of movie that could only have come from late-stage capitalism. I mean come on. Owen Wilson voices a turkey, Reggie, who receives the presidential pardon and lives a life

of luxury: unlimited pizza and Spanish soap operas. He is soon kidnapped by a renegade turkey named Jake (Woody Harrelson), who is on a seemingly God-given mission issued to him by the Great Turkey to travel back in time and stop the first Thanksgiving feast.

The pair befriends the local turkeys and skirmish with the historical Myles Standish, who seeks to find the turkey headquarters and cook them for the feast. In between man-versus-turkey battles, Reggie catches feelings for one of the turkeys (Amy Poehler's character) and must decide whether to stay in 1621 or return to the present day.

Although this might come as a bit of a shock, the Owen Wilson turkey movie is by no means a masterpiece. Painting the turkeys as a native tribe fighting against the settlers was a questionable move to say the least, even at the time. Although it is likely due to the lack of Thanksgiving movies available during the holidays,

I can't help but feel that there is something here. *Free Birds* is not some grand revelation of modern cinematography or a breakthrough in film production. At its core, *Free Birds* is somewhat passable overall in terms of quality, with padded dialogue aimed to extend its runtime and just hit an hour and 20. The movie is nonsensical and illogical, yet it deserves to be watched for the unfortunate reality that there just aren't many half-decent Thanksgiving movies. Sure, I understand that Thanksgiving does not have the seasonal hype of Halloween and Christmas, but the holiday itself warrants some more accompanying films. The beauty of *Free Birds* is its side bits and quips that help cushion this movie into decency and possible respectability. At one point, a character is ostracized from the flock and dubbed the "anti-corn," a turkey elder has a half-turkey/half-chicken offspring and overall the writers did not lay an egg with the turkey puns.

Free Birds is not going to change your life drastically or rival the golden age of cinematography. It's a somewhat nonsensical movie with an absurd premise that brings some chuckles over a brief runtime. It features a stellar voice cast and serves as a nice palette cleanser between football games and the handful of Thanksgiving TV specials.

Next year, when you are with the family during the holidays and everyone is collapsed on the couch from the turkey, consider putting on the greatest turkey movie of all time and hold onto your nuggets.



Joseph Nichols is a staff writer for *NewsWire*. He is a junior English and history double major from Cincinnati.

Stick It To Those Selling Tickets

It is common knowledge that the desperation for money is rampant among college students. The cost of tuition, gas, groceries, food and other expenses can add up. We've all had those days where a quick trip to pick up fast food is the only thing giving you the willpower to keep trudging through the trenches of a semester at Xavier. At a private Catholic institution, students are fronting a lot of money to be able to gain a well-rounded, fruitful education while also trying to navigate exterior purchases that are inherently inevitable; the least Xavier can do is offer free tickets to students for sporting events, right?

Now, even our basketball tickets aren't safe. Like I said, I understand that money can be tight, and selling tickets might give someone extra money to help with college expenses. However, to be profiting off other college students, who are also in tight financial situations, is blasphemous. Not only that,

but to charge exorbitant prices for tickets you got for free? It is unfair, and the university needs to implement regulations to prevent this from continuing.

In a time where ticket scalping is a bubbling issue in the U.S., threatening to boil over and burn customers while resulting in profit for big ticket corporations, it is time that Xavier sets a precedent and protects their students from being deprived of our beloved — and free — basketball games.

Recently, this issue has made its way to the federal level as concertgoers have raised concerns over the rising trends in reselling tickets — often at outrageous prices. Most notable of these companies is Ticketmaster, who was called to the U.S. Senate in January 2023 to answer for its actions (or lack thereof). Many people were upset that Ticketmaster didn't implement preventative measures to prohibit ticket scalping; this conflict came to a head after

the disastrous debacle that was trying to secure tickets to Taylor Swift's Eras Tour.

While there wasn't any actionable decision made in the hearing, it does bring to light this growing issue that has left a bitter taste in concertgoers' mouths. Many politicians, lobbyists and representatives now have this issue in the forefront of their minds, so the next steps taken by Ticketmaster must be carefully calculated. Either they work with the people to resolve these issues or face the likely possibility that government regulation will stifle their greedy rampage.

Funnily enough, the outrage at the difficulties in securing reasonably priced tickets was bipartisan in this hearing, meaning Democrats and Republicans alike were frustrated with Ticketmaster and its parent company, Live Nation Entertainment.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) even remarked, "I want to congratulate and thank you for an absolutely

stunning achievement: You have brought together Republicans and Democrats in an absolutely unified cause."

Put frankly, this company has a monopoly in the ticketing world and any sane person can see the issue that lies in this fact. They must be stopped.

My point in bringing up all this T. Swift vs. Ticketmaster lore is that this issue is starting to infiltrate our lovely, quaint campus in little old Norwood, Ohio. We once were equals. Nothing unites a humanities major and a sciences major like ice cold beers and three-pointers in Cintas. And now, this utopian vision is being attacked.

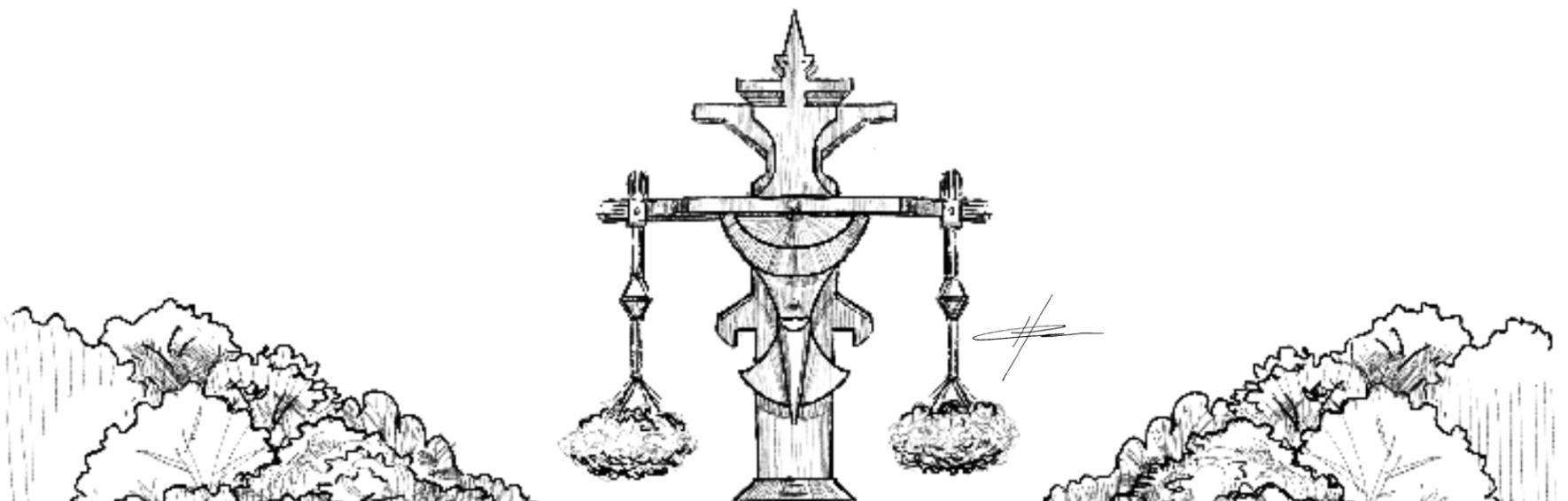
We are allowing our capitalistic roots to cause us to lose sight of what really matters: The getaway that is Xavier basketball. I can't imagine that I will ever fully enjoy a basketball game if I know in the back of my mind that I had to pay a fellow classmate for a ticket they got for free. Repeat that

in your mind. Sounds absurd, doesn't it?

So, in my concluding remarks, I'd like to call on our university to do something about this issue. Implement regulations so that it doesn't continue. Prohibit people from posting ticket listings on CampusGroups. I'm sure everyone would appreciate not having their phone be blown up with the same "selling my ticket, dm for price" message every 15 minutes.



Laney Konz is a staff writer for *NewsWire*. She is a junior English major from Cincinnati.



2023 XU Volleyball Season Concludes

Muskies drop first round Big East tournament match against DePaul in Milwaukee

BY ROBBIE DZIERZANOWSKI
Staff Writer

The Xavier women's volleyball team finished off their season with a defeating loss in the first round of the Big East Tournament last Wednesday evening in Milwaukee.

The Musketeers fell short of defeating the Blue Demons of DePaul by a score of 1 set to 3 at the Al McGuire Center on the campus of Marquette University.

The season came to an end but was not short of individual accomplishments among the Musketeers.

Graduate student setter Carrigan O'Reilly (pictured right) was named to the All-Big East team for the fourth time in her Xavier career. She also earned a Big East Honor Roll slot four times during the 2023 season, and was picked to the Preseason All-Big East team. O'Reilly ranked 21st in the nation in assists per set, having accumulated 927 on the season for an average of 11 assists per set.

Senior middle blocker Delaney Hogan was named to the All-Big East Team for the third time in her career. She had also earned the Big East Honor Roll selection four times throughout the season, and led the Musketeers in the

block assists, kills, points, hitting percentage and blocks/set average this season.

Graduate student outside hitter Brooklyn Cink entered her second season in navy and white with Preseason All-Big East honors, and recorded double-digit kills in five matches. Her season high of 14 kills came against DePaul on Oct. 20.

Redshirt junior middle blocker Sarah Stevens started 27 matches and recorded the second-highest kill percentage on the team at .317.

True junior setter Logan Flaugh tallied the second most assists of any Musketeer with 170 on the season.

Defensive specialist Eloise Czajkowski and outside hitter Quinci Thomas, both first-years, recorded significant playing time along with lone sophomore Caroline Speelman, who started 11 matches in the outside hitter spot, to form an exciting young core.

Xavier finished non-conference play with wins over Indiana State, Alabama State, Cincinnati, Buffalo, Bellarmine and Northern Kentucky

The team began conference play with a 3-0 rout of Butler, and a win against the

No. 11 Creighton Bluejays at the Cintas Center where they defeated the Jays



Photo courtesy of Diana Lewis/Xavier Athletics

3-2. The win marked history, as Xavier's most recent win against a ranked team with the last ranked win came 14 years ago against No. 14 Cal Poly in 2007. It was the highest ranked victory in Xavier volleyball history and marked the program's first ever win against the Bluejays.

In mid-October, the team strung together a trio of wins while visiting Connecticut and Providence and brought home a win in front of a Cintas Center crowd against Seton Hall, bringing their record to 13-6 overall and 6-2 in the Big East.

The team's momentum then skidded to a halt when they dropped three matches in a row to DePaul and Marquette, both while at Cintas Center.

The ladies then picked up and traveled to Queens, N.Y. for a match against St. John's where they were shutout 3-0, bringing their record to 6-5 in Big

East play.

Following the skid, the Musketeers had a large comeback, going on a five-match winning streak. They picked up a win on the road in New Jersey against Seton Hall, at home versus Georgetown, Villanova, Providence and Connecticut before dropping a match to Butler, bringing their record to 18-10 and 11-6 in the Big East.

To close out the regular season, the women traveled west to Omaha, Neb. to face the Creighton Bluejays one last time, with the Bluejays coming in at No. 15 in the country. The team was not able to surmount the ranked Creighton team for the second time this season, dropping the match in a shutout of 3-0. The Musketeers totaled 26 kills, 24 assists, 39 digs, eight block assists, and two service aces in the three-set match, but nothing was enough to catapult Xavier past the powerhouse.

Xavier finished the season fourth overall in the Big East, with a final record of 18-12 overall, and their in-conference record at 11-7.

Xavier's finishes above the .500 win percentage mark in 2022 and 2023 marked Xavier's first consecutive winning seasons since 2015 and 2016.

Muskeeters Look To Domesticate No. 6 Cougars

XU will host game in Big East- Big XII Battle after dropping close game to Oakland

BY BEN DICKISON
Sports Editor

Monday night in Cintas Center, Xavier took a laceration from the claws of the Oakland Golden Grizzlies. In a game that left Xavier outscored 76-78 at the final buzzer, Dailyn Swain missed a heave from halfcourt that would have given Xavier its fifth win of the season had it not careened off the rim.

The Musketeers shot 4% better from downtown (30.4%-26.7%), made nine more free throws (23-19), corralled in eight more rebounds (37-29) than their opponent, and were equal to the Golden Grizzlies with 10 turnovers. However, the Musketeers were inferior to their foes, who were projected to finish sixth in the Horizon League in field percentage (51.8%-41.1%) by a substantial margin. While Desmond Claude poured in 24 points without connecting from beyond the arc, the Musketeers struggled to probe Oakland's veteran head coach Greg Kampe's unique 1-3-1 zone.

"Oakland beat us tonight," said Head Coach Sean Miller in his postgame presser. "I thought our offense was plenty good enough to win the game, but we simply could



Photo courtesy of Isaac Fieley

First year man Lazar Djokovic (above), who hails from Serbia, has averaged 17.25 minutes per contest since his debut against Washington in Las Vegas. He poured in 10 points against Bryant on Black Friday.

In Ousmane's limited playing time, the North Texas transfer shot an efficient four-for-six on field goal attempts and pulled in five rebounds. Ousmane has been in a struggle to avoid foul trouble consistently since his showdown with Purdue's behemoth center and National Player of the Year candidate Zach Edey, who stands 7'4". In the Musketeers 71-83 loss in West Lafayette, Ousmane fouled out in 10 minutes. In Xavier's narrow loss to the Washington Huskies in Las Vegas, Ousmane maxed out his personal fouls in just nine minutes. However, Ousmane has an undeniable motor and commanding physical stature

Desmond Claude was Townsend's primary defender in the second half, mostly due to Abou Ousmane's exile to the bench due to foul trouble.

that makes him a staple in the Musketeers' rotation.

On Friday, Xavier will take on the team with the ninth-highest rebounding rate in the nation as the Houston Cougars roll into town for a 6:30 tip as part of the Big East-Big XII battle. The Cougars, boasting a number six ranking in the Associated Press Poll, are world-renowned for their hard-nosed, physical style of play which yields results in the form of postseason success. The Cougars advanced to the Final Four in 2021 and South Regional Final in 2022. Head Coach Kelvin Sampson, has a team anchored by Baylor transfer shooting guard LJ

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Cryer and last year's American Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year Jamal Shead at the point position. The Cougars have also welcomed Temple transfer Damian Dunn, who put up 15.3 points per game last season, to play an interchangeable role with sophomore forward Terrence Arcenaux. Arcenaux is an uber-athletic wing, and an elite rebounder at 6'6". Then again, the common ality among all of Houston's roster is the ability to rebound at a world class level. In order to defeat the Cougars, it is imperative that Xavier limits turnovers against ball pressure, and is able to match the effort on the glass Houston reliably puts forth.

"One of the things we're teaching our guys is that when you don't box out, bad things happen," Miller emphasized.

It appears Xavier is seeking to forget the result and remember the lesson from this loss. In the postgame press conference, Abou Ousmane remarked, "We needed to get punched in the mouth like this. Knowing if we don't play hard from the beginning, we will get beat. I feel like this is just going to make us

XU Theatre's *Twelfth Night* is a 12/10

BY MATTIE CIEPLAK
Staff Writer

Xavier Theatre's production of *Twelfth Night* had audiences rolling with laughter.

Twelfth Night is perhaps most recognized today as the plot of *She's The Man*, but the Shakespeare play weaves a more complicated tale. Between the eight different love stories, it can be difficult to follow what is happening on-stage, especially because of the prose.

In Xavier Theatre's production, director Jeremy Dubin further complicated this by adding in dialects. This might sound like it could be

a recipe for disaster, but the cast members utilized strong physicality and inflection to tell a delightful and understandable story.

Another unique aspect of the performance was the set. Xavier Theatre has historically utilized their stage space in various ways. *Twelfth Night* was not an exception to this experimentation. The 90-person house was seated on stage, with the front row only inches away from the start of the performing space.

This was an ideal setup for a Shakespeare production as his writing often utilizes a technique called an aside in which performers will directly

address the audience. Having such easy access to audience members created more energized and entertaining interactions, contributing to the comedic success of the production.

Technically, the production was stunning. The sound design is what truly merged this classic with contemporary times. Featuring songs like "bad idea, right?" by Olivia Rodrigo and "Dance the Night Away" by Dua Lipa, it was clear that there was an intentional choice to stay in the pop culture realm.

After the tremendous performance on Nov. 17, there was a talkback in collaboration with LGBTQ+ Alliance to discuss relevant themes from the show, specifically surrounding gender and sexuality.

The talkback was facilitated by Dr. Stephen Yandell, Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and an English professor. Panelists featured Dr. Niamh O'Leary, a Shakespeare scholar from the English department; Maria Merrill, Assistant Director at the Center for Diversity and Inclusion; Susan Pelle, the Campus Advocacy Coordinator for Counseling Services; Kaity Rowe, the TriHealth Student Wellbeing Services Supervisor; Megan Shuey,



BY KYRA HUDSON
Staff Writer

- Actor Logan Lerman and his long-time girlfriend Ana Corrigan announced their engagement (Nov. 22).
- SZA teased the deluxe edition of her album *SOS* featuring Lana Del Rey (Nov. 25).
- A Catholic priest was stripped of his administrative duties after allowing Sabrina Carpenter's "Feather" music video to be filmed in a church in Brooklyn (Nov. 27).



Photo courtesy of @xaviertheatre via Instagram

treasurer of the LGBTQ+ Alliance and Regan Utrup, who played Viola in the production.

This talkback is part of Xavier Theatre's effort to collaborate with groups on campus to facilitate relevant discussions for five of their six past productions.

"I'm delighted that the Theatre program is interested in fostering conversation about the productions and how they intersect with our lived experiences. It's such a meaningful way to recognize performance as experiential learning," O'Leary said about the talkback program.

Get on Board with this Grad's Game Empire

BY JOSEPH NICHOLS
Staff Writer

Since graduating in the class of 2020, Xavier alum Cameron Ring has taken an unconventional approach to post-college life by founding a board game company.

"My company is called Lost Boy Entertainment and we make games. We design games that are for people who grew up playing board games and want it to be something to do with friends and family," Ring said.

Ring graduated from Xavier with a business analytics degree.

"I was in the very first class that was four years of (the business analytics major)," Ring said.

Although current students are unable to graduate with a business analytics major, Ring credits the former department head and current professor Lauren Laker with keeping him invested at Xavier.

"She made numbers exciting. While business analytics isn't inherently creative, every business has data and numbers. Being able to take a bunch of boring numbers and tell a story is an impressive skill that she was hammering into us," Ring said.

Additionally, Ring ascribes his current financial steadiness and ability to survive the

post-Xavier life to the classes he took.

"Board games aside, I am self-employed in a sense, so it's not the cushy nine-to-five. I need to know how to do things on my own, and a lot of the courses I took and the major were crucial for that," Ring said.

After graduating, Ring formed Lost Boy Entertainment with a pair of family members that he grew up playing board games with: "There's three of us currently, it's me and my two cousins, KC and Corey," he said.

The triumvirate tackles the board game industry head-on, from coming up with ideas for new games to communicating with distributors across the country. With over 2,000 sales this past month on Amazon for their flagship game and a stellar five star rating on each of their products, Lost Boy Entertainment is getting its name out in the market.

However, Ring also stated the initial period of transition is the most difficult.

"The biggest jump is when I decided to do it full-time... it became very quickly clear that if you don't work at this and you're not self-motivated, you cannot run a business," he said.

The company's flagship game, *Plunder: A Pirate's Life*, is a "competitive, strategy-based getaway game

played on a modular ocean map" that allows players to privateer one another across the world. *Plunder* is the company's most successful product and was their entrance into the market. Although there is much more in store for Lost Boy Entertainment, *Plunder* is what Ring envisioned from the company.

"*Plunder* is by far and away our most ambitious product...making a slightly more expensive and heavier board game is not only risky on the financial side, it's more risky for the consumer to purchase as well," Ring said.

Before the release of *Plunder*, Ring and his partners considered cutting sections of the game to make it a less risky product.

"We've been trying our best to shave weight here and there, but we refuse to sacrifice quality. So we understand we could make a little bit more money per unit, but we don't care. We would rather make less money and put out a quality product," Ring stated.

After the success of *Plunder*, Lost Boy Entertainment diversified their products to reach a much larger target audience. The company has three other products that vary from drinking games for parties to speed and memory games for friends and family.

As for what's next for Ring and the company, they have a

series of games to release in the coming months as they get ready for the Christmas season.

"We're not done, you know. Sure, we don't have enough money to live like kings, but

we started something that allows us to pay our bills and not have to work for some corporate conglomerate," Ring said.

Ring's catalogue of games can be found on his website: lostboyentertain.com.



Photo courtesy of Cameron Ring

Xavier graduate Cameron Ring poses with a copy of *Piles*, one of the games developed by his board game company, Lost Boy Entertainment



Aries: At least the weather is giving you a biting distraction from how bad our basketball team is.



Taurus: Don't forget to add the essentials to your Christmas list. Fuzzy socks!



Gemini: Go see *Trolls 3*. Leave the kids at home though. It's amazing what they put in kids movies now.



Cancer: Keep playing "Lovin' On Me" and manifest that you'll meet Jack Harlow.



Leo: If you're devastated about less Joe Burrow on your television this season, me too. Watch more edits on TikTok.



Virgo: Stop checking your fantasy team every three hours. The stats aren't going to change.



Libra: You will persist through these next two weeks. I believe in you. Get enough sleep, don't forget to eat and stop binging *Modern Family*.



Scorpio: "Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays" by NSYNC is so slept on. Give it some love.



Sagittarius: Don't forget to moisturize. It is absolutely vital in the brutal, dry and cold air.



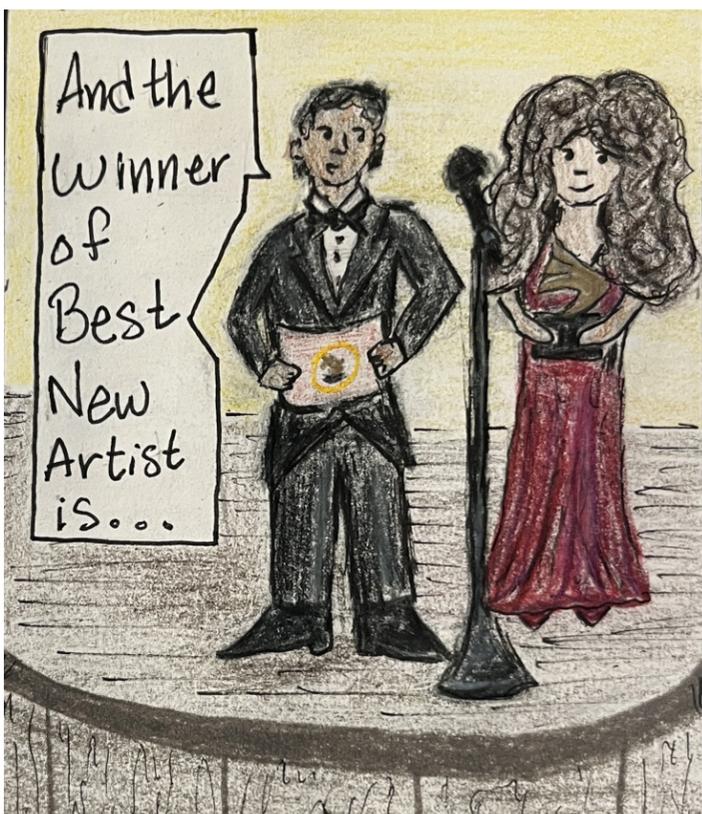
Capricorn: Put on your brave face for winter. Put a little extra bronzer and highlighter on.



Aquarius: Don't bother listening to the Lumineers rendition of "Deck the Halls."



Pisces: Keep your friends close. You don't want to end up like Hall and Oates. I'm devastated; I don't want to talk about it.



COMIC BY BRIANA DUNN

Fanum Tax Grammy Noms

BY JUSTICE DICKEY, STAFF WRITER

Taylor Swift, SZA and Olivia Rodrigo have all weaseled their way into the 2024 Grammy nominations for a number of different categories, leaving no room for many other real musicians and creators who truly deserve this highly prestigious music award.

I'm not here to boohoo about Morgan Wallen or those K-pop guys not getting a nomination. Instead, I'm here to talk about the sounds of a generation that were truly snubbed this year, starting with a song originally released by TikToker ovp.9 as a cover of "ecstasy" by Suicide Idol. Ovp.9, in its creative genius, rewrote the original lyrics to:

"Sticking out your gyat for the Rizzler.

You're so Skibidi, you're so Fanum Tax.

I just want to be your Sigma.

Freaking come here.

Give me your Ohio."

This is the masterpiece "Sticking out your Gyatt for the Rizzler" by ovp.9. The lyrics are short, sweet and offer an incredible example of the vernacular being utilized by many individuals on today's social media platforms. Ovp.9 definitely deserved a spot in between Noah Kahan and Victoria Monét in the best new artist category.

Next, I would like to point out that the *Barbie* movie received 12 nominations for the music of the film! 12! But you know what soundtrack didn't receive any nominations his year? The *Minecraft* soundtrack. *Minecraft* has provided us all with incredible instrumentals for every one of their updates, and the musical mastery of the *Minecraft* developers continues to leave us in awe with the recent Trails and Tails update and soundtrack release. *Minecraft* and its immaculate soundtrack has offered so much to society that not seeing the soundtrack to the new update present in this year's list of Grammy nominations is a crime.

Finally, we need to bring up the song, "Whistle." While the original song by Flo Rida doesn't fit the criteria for this year's Grammy nominations, the cover of "Whistle" by Joel Merry needs to be recognized for helping turn a particular piece of media into the work of art that is now recognized by many across the globe as THE Josh Hutcherson "Whistle" Edit. The edit was originally posted on YouTube in 2014 by user MetroGirlzStation and features various images of Hutcherson fading in and out throughout the video to the emotional instrumentals and lyrics of the song "Whistle" covered by Joel Merry.

The fact that "Whistle" did not make it onto the list of nominations for Song of the Year highlights the downward spiral that the Grammys have taken. I have never in my life sat down and watched the Grammys, but because of these ridiculous snubs, I will make sure to continue to not watch the Grammys... unless my roommate turns it on.